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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE)
COMMISSION,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) Case No. 4:22-cv-3359
)
MAURICIO CHAVEZ,)
GIORGIO BENVENUTO, and)
CRYPTOFOX, LLC,)
)
Defendants.)
)
and)
)
CBT GROUP, LLC,)
)
Relief Defendant.)
)

ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION
ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
MR. JULIO E. TAFFINDER
December 14, 2022

ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF MR. JULIO E.
TAFFINDER, produced as a witness at the instance of
the Plaintiff and duly sworn, was taken in the
above-styled and numbered cause on the 14th day of
December, 2022, from 9:15 a.m. to 6:43 p.m., before
Michelle Hartman, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and
for the State of Texas and Registered Professional
Reporter, reported by computerized stenotype machine

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- can you explain what that string of
3 characters and numbers is?

4 A. That's a BitCoin wallet, sir.

5 Q. And whose BitCoin wallet is that?

6 A. That's the child's wallet, the one that
7 was created temporarily to distribute back to the
8 student.

9 Q. Who created that?

10 A. That was one that I created that was --
11 it doesn't hold anything other than what Mauricio
12 sends.

13 Q. Okay. So if there was ever any BitCoin
14 going through this wallet ending in PGR --

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. -- that came from Mauricio Chavez --

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. -- at your request?

19 A. From the student's request, sir.

20 Q. But the student request didn't go
21 straight to Mauricio; is that right?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. They came through you to Mauricio?

24 A. Through the customer service, and then
25 based on what the customer service info was gathered,

1 then that amount is specifically stated in the
2 messages.

3 Q. Okay. Now, let's go down to the very
4 bottom entry on that first page of Exhibit 31.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Do you see where it says, "Hi, Brother,
7 good morning. For the BitCoin payment, can you send
8 me two Bits to continue to pay out folks? We have
9 about 30 plus people awaiting payments."

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And this is 30 plus people awaiting
12 payments who have asked to be paid in BitCoin on CFX
13 contracts; is that right?

14 A. Correct, sir.

15 Q. Now, when you were talking earlier about
16 what being a student investor/contract holder at CFX
17 entitled you to, you talked about the classes, you
18 talked about the payments; is that right?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Does it entitle you to anything else?

21 A. I mean, if the -- there was an event
22 held, then they could go to the event, but just
23 mainly the classes and the streams.

24 Q. Now, at some point, you know, people
25 started learning about this lawsuit, right?

1 A. Because as we roll it over, from there,
2 after April, then it turns into July. So you can
3 take everything out or you could leave it in there,
4 and at that point it has to be a new contract from
5 what Mauricio says.

6 Q. So that \$23,000 payment is the only
7 payment you have received out of any contracts with
8 CFX?

9 A. Yeah, that, and then this 67. I mean,
10 that was rolled over to the 125. So then on
11 October 15th, then that was the amount that was due.

12 Q. Okay. My question is: The \$23,000 that
13 you received, is that the only payment that you have
14 received from any contracts that you have had with
15 CFX?

16 A. From the contract, yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Okay. And you also have received check
18 payments or the payments from CFX, right?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Okay. And we -- I know we discussed the
21 50,000 -- I'm sorry, the 100,000.

22 A. 100,000.

23 Q. Right. So there was two checks of
24 \$50,000 to you and then two checks for \$50,000 for
25 your sister, right?

1 A. Yes. I know it was like 100,000, ma'am.

2 Q. And then your sister received another

3 \$37,500 check from CryptoFX. Do you know what that

4 was for in October -- on October 10th, 2021?

5 A. She received a \$37,000 check from --

6 Q. From CFX here.

7 A. That was for initially Mauricio offered

8 to help with the medical bills for my family and

9 the -- the death.

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. The death, the -- the funeral

12 arrangements.

13 Q. You also received a \$37,500 from CFX in

14 October -- the same date as your -- as your sister,

15 October 10th, 2021?

16 A. Then yes, ma'am.

17 Q. What -- yes what?

18 A. The same, for the funeral arrangements,

19 ma'am.

20 Q. Well, how much did the funeral cost?

21 A. Times two.

22 Q. And two what?

23 A. We had two parents pass, ma'am.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. So it was each, one for each, ma'am.

1 So --

2 Q. So all of this -- all of this money,
3 though, \$37,500, both of those checks went towards
4 paying for the funeral --

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. -- of your parents?

7 Which funeral company did you and your
8 sister use for your parents?

9 A. Dignity.

10 Q. What did Mauricio pay for the funeral
11 bills?

12 A. That's what he offered, ma'am.

13 Q. And then there is another check to you in
14 August of 2021 for \$12,000. What was that?

15 A. That was my dad's salary.

16 Q. Salary? That CFX owed?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. To your dad?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you deposit these checks?

21 A. Of course, ma'am.

22 Q. What account did you deposit them in?

23 A. JPMorgan Chase account.

24 Q. CFX records show that you were paid

25 \$3,000 a week and not \$5,000 every two weeks. Does

1 that sound correct?

2 A. No, ma'am. I was paid 5,000.

3 Q. 5,000 every two weeks?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Was this -- do you know how much your
6 father was paid?

7 A. No, I do not, ma'am.

8 Q. I am going to show you another document,
9 I just want to understand what this is.

10 (Exhibit 44 marked)

11 Q. (BY MS. THEMELI) Exhibit 44, and this is
12 another record from CFX -- from CFX documents. Do
13 you see your name here?

14 A. I do, ma'am.

15 Q. Okay. Actually, if you turn to the third
16 page, is that document -- it's a signed copy? And it
17 says there, "CFX Lifestyle "Pagos recibidos."

18 What does that mean?

19 A. Payments received.

20 Q. Okay. And you see your name there, Julio
21 Eduardo Taffinder?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And in that table where it says
24 "Description," and then under that you have "Julio
25 Eduardo Taffinder. Quantity: One. Unit price:

1 \$146,000." What is that for?

2 A. I think that's referring to the -- the
3 checks that we just discussed.

4 Q. Okay. Well, let's go to the first page
5 of that document. Who is Salvador Reyes?

6 A. He's a leader from -- from Houston.

7 Q. Okay. And why would Salvador Reyes be
8 paid \$160,000?

9 A. I don't know, ma'am. I don't know why
10 I'm on this page, to be honest.

11 Q. Who do you think prepared this? Who does
12 prepare this at CFX?

13 A. I don't know, ma'am.

14 Q. And then Giorgio -- and I assume this is
15 a typo there -- that should be Giorgio Benvenuto,
16 \$200,000, right?

17 A. (Nods).

18 Q. Do you know why Giorgio Benvenuto would
19 be paid a \$100,000 check?

20 A. No, I don't know.

21 Q. But you're saying that this \$140,000 is
22 related to the checks you received?

23 A. Yes, ma'am, I believe so.

24 Q. Have you received -- other than those
25 checks and the \$23,000 we discussed from the